

UNPUBLISHED PRELIMINARY DATA

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : (Miss) Winnie M. Morgan
TRO, OGRC, OSSA (See attached letter)

DATE: March 1, 1965

FROM : A. H. Chidester, Project Chief,
Astronaut Training in Geology

A. H. Chidester

SUBJECT: Quarterly Status Report, October 1 -- December 31, 1964
NASA Contract SC-R-09-020-007

Check-out trips with Dr. Ted Foss, NASA Geologist, to plan astronaut field trips, were made as follows: (1) in October, 1964, with Dr. Robert Smith, to the Valles Caldera near Los Alamos, New Mexico; (2) in December, 1964, to the Island of Hawaii, in conjunction with Dr. Howard Powers, Chief of the Hawaii Volcano Observatory, USGS; and (3) in December, 1964, to the Nevada Test Site, with Will Carr, USGS.

Astronaut field trips were carried out as follows: (1) in October, in two sections on successive weeks, to the Bend, Oregon area, under the leadership of Dr. Aaron C. Waters, USGS and University of California at Santa Barbara; (2) in October and November, in three sections on successive weeks, to the Valles Caldera, New Mexico, under the leadership of Roy Bailey and Dr. Robert Smith, USGS.

Three lectures in the series on Terrestrial and Lunar Volcanology and Impact Geology were held in Houston: (1) in October, "Review of Volcanic Geology", A. C. Waters; (2) in November, "Lunar Volcanic Features", Hal Masursky; and (3) in December, "Lunar Impact Structure and Crater Density", E. M. Shoemaker and H. J. Moore II.

At the suggestion of several of the astronauts, and with the approval of the Astronaut Office, the third section of the Valles field trip was used to test the feasibility of making sound documentary films of the geologic features of each field trip. Filming and recording was carried out by the Film Documentation Unit of the Branch of Astrogeology, U.S. Geological Survey. The results, though not yet completed in final form, were so encouraging that it is planned to carry out such documentation on all future trips. The documentary films are intended primarily for review purposes--to enable the astronauts to refresh their memories on the principal geologic features studied on each trip. Viewing the films will be in nowise an adequate substitute for participating in the actual field trips; but nevertheless, the films will serve to fill in some measure gaps in the training of individual astronauts who were unable to attend particular field trips.

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